

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Office Action dated May 21, 2007, the present Amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination and a petition for extension of time.

Claims 15, 16, and 18-28 have been rejected over a combination of Sommer, Nagata, and Pflager et al. Independent claims 15 and 18 are being amended to recite the feature described at paragraph [0047], lines 13-15, namely that “the disc polishing element is movable by a reciprocating motion of the rotating shaft, whereby the disc polishing element has both rotary motion and reciprocating motion...”

With this feature, the disc polishing element can be brought into contact with workpiece uniformly even if the longitudinal dimension of the side face of the grooves is longer than the width of the disc polishing element. Thus, flatness is kept at high level uniformly over the side faces of the grooves. In the disclosed example, the side of the grooves formed on a workpiece had mirror-finished surfaces after polishing. (Paragraph [0052]). The prior art fails to disclose such a feature.

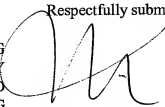
The “Hall sensor” feature of claims 15 and 18 is being moved to new dependent claims 29 and 30.

Therefore, allowance of claims 15, 16, 18 and 20-30 is requested.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY
THROUGH THE PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE EFS FILING
SYSTEM ON September 21, 2007.

JAF:lfjl

Respectfully submitted,



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